STATEMENT LAID ON THE TABLE.

MR. K. GEORGE (*Financial Secretary to Government*): Sir, under Rule 52 of the Legislative Council Rules, I beg to place on the table the following statement of expenditure authorised by Government under Section 16 (9) of the Legislative Council Regulation, II of 1097.

Demand No.	Amount Rs.	Remarks.
IX. Administration of Justice.	150	On account of the establishment of a Second Class Bench Magistrate's Court at Padmanabhapuram and the consequent appointment of a full-time copyist.
XX. Buildings, Communications and Miscellaneous Public Improvements.	3,700	On account of the expenditure in connection with the Workshops Committee.

DEMANDS FOR SUPPLEMENTARY GRANTS.

DEMAND I—LAND REVENUE.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Sir, I beg to move for a supplementary grant of Rs. 5,480 under Land Acquisition charges, under the head I.C.-Taluk Cutcherries. small amount is wanted to acquire a piece of land which projects into the Taluk Cutcherry compound at Shencottah. It is a piece of private land and I have got a sketch showing the compound which can be looked into in case anybody wants to see it. The matter was under correspondence for a very long time. In his inspection notes dated 9th June, 1919, the late Dewan, Mr. Krishnan Nair, observed as follows :

"There is a small plot of private land projecting into the Shencottah Taluk Cutcherry compound. It is not desirable to leave it in private hands as the Treasury is located in the Taluk Cutcherry. This piece of land should be acquired and added on to the Cutcherry compound. The Peishkar will be asked to submit proposals regarding it."

The Dewan Peishkar, Quilon, who was accordingly addressed in the matter wrote to say that the land in question measures 39 cents (Survey No. 113/8) and that Rs. 20 per cent would be a reasonable price for it, regard being had to the sales in the neighbourhood in recent years. It was also reported that there is an old building (abandoned coffee store) on the land. The Division Officer, Quilon, has estimated the value of the building at Rs. 4,699. The total value of the site thus comes to Rs. 5,479. There is no provision under "Land Acquisition charges" in I. C.—Taluk Cutcherries, nor is it possible to find this sum by diversion from other items. A supplementary grant of Rs. 5,480 may therefore be allowed under the above item.

I have also seen the place. The acquisition is very necessary. The private building which is inside the Taluk Cutcherry compound is a positive nuisance and a source of danger.

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[President.]

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know from Mr. Robinson whether that cannot be walled off from the Taluk Cutcherry compound?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No, I will show you the sketch.

PRESIDENT: Will you please send on the sketch to Mr. Madhava Variar, Mr. Robinson?

[The sketch was accordingly circulated among some of the non-official members.]

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know how long the Shencottah Taluk Cutcherry has been in existence with this projection into the compound?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am not able to hear what the member says.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): I wish to know from Mr. Robinson for how many years the Taluk Cutcherry has been in existence with this projection into the compound?

MR. S C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I have no knowledge here on the subject. I can get the information. It has been in existence for a very long time, for over 12 years or so.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Will he tell us what is the special inconvenience caused by this projection?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think if you look at the map you will see the position.

PRESIDENT: You should address me, Mr. Robinson.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): If Mr. Krishna Aiyar will kindly look at the map, he will know the lay of the land.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I wish to know from Mr. Robinson whether there is any urgent demand for this acquisition why we should not wait for the next budget and whether this will not militate against the spirit and the letter of the rules.

PRESIDENT: The last is a general question. You cannot put it to Mr. Robinson.

MR. S C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The matter has been pending for a very long time. The sooner we get rid of it the better. The price of land will go higher from year to year. The compensation will also be less if we purchase it soon.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): Sir,—

PRESIDENT: He has already told you, Mr. Hoogewerf, that it is a source of nuisance and danger.

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MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): It has been pending for so many years. Then, why not wait till the next budget ?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The sooner the better. It has been waiting for such a long time.

MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Sir, I beg to oppose the motion for this grant. From what Mr. Robinsoon has been telling the House, I gather that this is not a case of the sudden development of a sense of fastidiousness on the part of the Land Revenue Department in respect of the geometrical shape of the compound in which the Taluk Cutcherry is situated at Shencottah. The matter has been brought to the notice of the authorities during the time of the late Dewan, and why the matter was not included in the annual budget presented to this House has not been explained. Evidently, therefore, the authorities thought that this was not among those subjects which are of the urgent category. Why this subject should now be brought up has not been explained.

Mr. Robinson now says that, as time goes on, the price of land is likely to increase. If that is a true statement, the price of land has already been allowed to rise a good deal. Who is to be held responsible for that, has not been pointed out. To say that a small bit of land should be added when there is no real necessity for it except the vague apprehension due to the situation of the Treasury in the Taluk Cutcherry compound, is, I beg to submit, not enough to make out a case for the acquisition of the land in question.

From the statement of Mr. Robinson, I see that the land measures about 39 cents and that there is a rickety old building upon it. I fail to see why it should not be successfully walled off leaving the Taluk Cutcherry compound separate.

And then, as regards the price of the land, whether any investigation has been made in the locality is not clear. Whether the owner of the land has been questioned on the subject and what his demand is, have not been stated. In the light of all these circumstances, I would submit that the matter requires fuller discussion and that it should not be taken up as a supplementary grant, when it ought to have been brought in the regular budget. On these grounds, I oppose the motion.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Sir, I beg to oppose the motion. Mr. Robinson has not been able to tell us how long this inconvenience has been felt, and we have to infer that the incovenience must have been felt for years together. One reason advanced by Mr. Robinson was that the price of land would be increased and that once we make up our mind to acquire it, we had better acquire it earlier. However, he has referred to a rickety building. If it is a rickety building it is sure to tumble one of these days and we need not then pay for that also. Moreover, this is a supplementary grant. There must be some emergency and suddenness in the necessity for its being brought forward as a supplementary grant. For these reasons, I also oppose the motion.

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[Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.]

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): For the same reasons, I also oppose the motion. I do not think it is in keeping with the spirit and the letter of the rules regulating supplementary grants to smuggle such a demand through the Council now. When I asked Mr. Robinson whether there was any urgent need for the land, he told us that the land was rising in value and so on. That reason seems to be his trump card. It does not seem to me to be quite convincing and he could not give us any better reason. I think that argument will not be accepted by this House. I therefore strongly oppose the demand.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): Mr. Hoogewerf spoke about my trump card. I do not know what has led him to say that. In regard to the reasons, I am most willing to give them. Once more I may say that provision could not be made in the last budget as the value of the land had not been ascertained. I believe the matter was placed before the Finance Committee and they raised no objection. I may be mistaken, but the members of the Finance Committee will be able to say something about this.

As regards the walling off of the compound, it will mean a wall on three sides, and that will cost just as much as, if not more than, the price of the acquisition. If the members who have objected will look into the sketch, they will see how it projects into the Taluk Cutcherry. Then we want this land for erecting other Government buildings which are now situated in rented houses in Shencottah.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May I know from Mr. Robinson how many linear feet of wall will have to be put up?

MR. S. C. H ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I think I showed the map to Mr. Krishna Aiyar and he has probably made the necessary calculations. I have not got the length of the sides here.

PRESIDENT: He too could not have done it then. (*Laughter.*)

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Has he made any estimate of the cost of the wall?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): No, I have not made an estimate.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): Can he give the cost roughly?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I cannot say that. But I am told by a competent officer that the cost of the wall would be higher than the acquisition charges.

MR. S. KRISHNA AIYAR (*Mavelikara* cum *Kartikapalli*): May we know whether he is a technical officer?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): I am not in a position to answer him. Government should say that.

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MR. P. K. NARAYANA PILLAI (*Ambalapuzha*): Does Mr. Robinson propose to go without a wall if this plot is added on to the Taluk Cutcherry?

PRESIDENT: No wall will be necessary.

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): The map will show it.

MR. C. SANKARA MENON (*Quilon*): May I know the area of the premises on which this Taluk Cutcherry is situated?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): 9·72 acres.

The Forest Department is now paying Rs. 40 a month for a private building as rent in the town of Shencottah and there are certain other houses also rented there for Government purposes. I have not got a complete list here. There are very many buildings in Shencottah which are rented for Government offices. When this acquisition is made and Government buildings constructed upon it, they will be much more satisfactory than rented houses.

MR. M. R. MADHAVA VARIAR (*Chengannur* cum *Pattanamtitta*): May I know whether these buildings can be constructed in the Cutcherry compound without the acquisition of this plot of land?

MR. S. C. H. ROBINSON (*Land Revenue and Income Tax Commissioner*): If the members will see the sketch, they will be satisfied that the acquisition is necessary.

PRESIDENT: I shall put this motion to the vote.

(Mr. T. K. Velu Pillai stood up for speaking.)

PRESIDENT: Do you want to speak, Mr. Velu Pillai? I am sorry you are late.

The motion was put to the vote and carried, 24 voting *for* and 17 *against*.

MR. A. HOOGEWERF (*Nominated*): I demand a poll.

A poll was taken with the following result:—

AYES—24.

1. Mr. I. C. Chacko.
2. ,, C. J. Curien.
3. ,, R. Dhanukoti Pillai.
4. ,, K. George.
5. ,, L. C. Hodgson.
6. ,, M. K. Khadir Pillai.
7. Rao Bahadur K. A. Krishna Aiyangar.
8. Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.
9. Dewan Bahadur Dr. P. N. Lakshmanan.
10. Mr. T. Lakshmana Pillai.
11. ,, K. V. Natesa Aiyar.
12. ,, J. John Nidiry.
13. Mr. K. Paramesvaran Pillai. (*Tiruvalla.*)
14. ,, S. Paramesvara Aiyar.
15. ,, K. Paramesvaran Pillai (*Ag. Director of Agriculture*)
16. ,, P. Paramesvaran.
17. ,, W. H. Pitt.
18. ,, M. Raja Raja Varma.
19. Rao Bahadur K. V. Rangaswami Aiyangar.
20. Mr. S. C. H. Robinson.
21. ,, V. Subba Aiyar.
22. ,, A. J. Van Ross.
23. ,, Trivikramar Vasudevar.
24. ,, T. K. Velu Pillai.

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[Mr. R. Krishna Pillai.]

NOES—17.

1.	Mr. T. M. Chidambaratanu Pillai.	9.	The Rev. Fr. Kuriakose Vettikkapalli.
2.	,, A. Govinda Menon.	10.	Mr. M. R. Madhava Variar.
3.	,, A Hoogewerf.	11.	,, K. C. Mammen Mappillai.
4.	,, C. P. Kochukunju Pillai.	12.	,, P. K. Narayana Pillai.
5.	,, S. Krishna Aiyar.	13	,, M. N. Pillai.
6.	,, N. Kumaran.	14.	,, Joseph Panjikaran.
7.	,, T. Kumara Pillai.	15.	,, N. Ramakrishna Pillai.
8.	,, V. Kunjukrishna Pillai.	16.	,, C. Ramankunju.
		17.	,, C. Sankara Menon.

NEUTRALS—4.

1.	Mr. S. Adam Sait.	3.	Mr. L. R. Raja Raja Varma.
2.	,, G. Paramesvaran Pillai.	4.	,, K. Dominic Tomman.

DEMAND VII GENERAL ADMINISTRATION.

MR. R. KRISHNA PILLAI (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Sir, I rise to move for a supplementary grant not exceeding Rs. 2,000 under General Administration. This is intended to cover the establishment and contingent charges of a Special officer proposed to be engaged mainly for the purpose of overhauling the Huzur records.

The condition of these records is not satisfactory. Prior to 1904, there was no regular system of file-keeping as understood at present. The records were kept in covers and bundles without any attempt to arrange them subjectwar. In 1904, the open file system was introduced, along with the new Secretariat scheme. The chief feature of the system was that references bearing on the same subject, however remote their connection might be, were put up together, so that the files had to be kept open, sometimes for years together, without being closed. Another serious drawback of the system was that important papers were not separated from the unimportant ones which could be destroyed after a certain period; nor was there any effective means of checking the arrears in the different Sections of the Secretariat. With a view to obviate these defects a simplified form of the disposal number system obtaining in British India was introduced in 1921; but the files disposed of under this system have not yet been transferred to the Records office, so that the files and papers which now encumber that office are those relating to the period anterior to 1921. Repeated efforts, more or less of a spasmodic nature, appear to have been made to overhaul these records. Several years ago, the late Mr. Sawyer, while in charge of the records, sorted and arranged some of the old covers and bundles, prepared an index for them and also had two volumes of the index printed. Later on, in the middle of 1918, a temporary staff of 8 clerks under a Special Superintendent was appointed for sorting and arranging the records. They completed the indexing of about 35,000 files relating to the period from 1904 to 1918 and the listing and indexing of about 3,000 covers of the earlier period. This staff was disbanded towards the close of 1920. Early in 1921, one of

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